

Community Services Block Grant in Iowa

Iowa's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) totaled \$6,843,628 in FFY 2013.

CSBG provides the core operational support for Iowa's network of 18 local community action agencies (CAAs). This network operates outreach offices in every Iowa county and provided self-sufficiency services to over 323,000 Iowans in FFY 2013.

The CAAs employ over 2,900 staff across Iowa.

The CAAs coordinate local community efforts that include employment, education, child care, housing, self-sufficiency, health, and emergency services. Key services include: Head Start programs, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Weatherization Assistance Program, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), Individual Development Accounts, Family Development and Self-Sufficiency Program, Child Care Resource and Referral, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

The CAAs are governed by local boards comprised equally of elected officials, private sector representatives, and low-income citizens. In FFY 2013, 350 citizens volunteered and served on Iowa CAA governing boards.

In FFY 2013, CSBG assisted the CAAs in leveraging over \$194.5 million in additional Federal, State, local government, and private funds and resources.

CSBG provided support for the CAAs to recruit and partner with over 16,000 volunteers—contributing over 434,000 hours of service and support to their local communities.

In FFY 2013, the CAAs partnered with over 6,400 organizations that support and provide programs and services to low-income Iowans. 294 partnerships were with faith-based organizations.

CSBG is administered through the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Community Action Agencies (DCAA). CSBG program quality and accountability are assured through the DCAA's process of CAA audit reviews, onsite reviews, program and financial monitoring, monthly and year-end reporting requirements, and training and technical assistance.

Iowa Community Services Block Grant Results

Iowa community action agencies (CAAs) provided services to over 125,000 households and 323,000 individuals in FFY 2013.

Characteristics of the households and individuals served by Iowa's CAAs in FFY 2013:

- **64.38%** of households were living at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level
- **60.90%** of households received food assistance from Iowa's Food Assistance Program
- **41.27%** were children and youth aged 0 to 18
- **21.71%** did NOT have health insurance (individuals)
- **19.69%** did NOT have a high school education (individuals aged 24 and above)

The Community Services Block Grant is an outcomes-driven program. The following are examples of Iowa's community action outcomes (results):

Employment and Education:

- **7,215** children participated in pre-school activities to develop school readiness skills
- **1,680** individuals obtained pre-employment skills required for employment
- **1,310** unemployed individuals obtained a job
- **71** individuals completed an ABE/GED
- **70** individuals completed a post-secondary education program
- **47** jobs were created or saved by CAA efforts

Emergency Assistance:

- **19,543** households received emergency food assistance
- **10,912** households received emergency energy assistance
- **2,250** individuals received emergency medical care
- **1,681** households received emergency rent or mortgage assistance
- **603** households received disaster relief assistance
- **76** individuals received emergency temporary shelter assistance

Financial Management:

- **4,876** households were assisted with tax preparation and received over **\$8.6 million** in tax credits

Housing and Assisted Living:

- **2,266** households obtained safe and affordable housing
- **1,671** seniors were able to maintain an independent living situation
- **229** disabled individuals were able to maintain an independent living situation
- **45** households purchased a home

Health:

- **15,639** women, **16,300** infants, and **21,488** children obtained nutrition education and food supplements through the WIC program
- **6,687** children obtained age appropriate immunizations, medical, and dental care